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British Ship Seized

Singapore, Feb. 20. The British merchantman "Fortune" sailing out of Singapore was seized on Feb. 8, by the Dutch Navy, when the ship entered Cheribon Roads with fire burning in two holds and attempted to unload prohibited cargo.

Commander G. B. Fortuyn of Kortenaar said he gave the "Fortune" captain permission to unload cement which was loaded. Burning coal prevented firemen from getting at the flames. He said when he returned to the ship four days later he found the fire still burning, the cement unloaded and the crew busy removing 550 bicycle tires from the after holds.

The "Fortune's" captain told the Dutch that his ship's engines had been damaged to prevent the ship from sailing and the Dutch Navy repaired the engines.

Fortuyn said the captain agreed to take the ship to Batavia only after the Dutch threatened to put a crew aboard. He said it arrived at Batavia four days later with coal still burning and "nobody paying any attention to the fire."

The Dutch ordered the ship to Batavia because it was suspected of carrying prohibited cargo without permit in Dutch territorial waters. It is owned by the Singapore, Hong Kong Shipping Company of Singapore.—United Press.

THE WEATHER

The intense anticyclone persists over China, S. Japan and the China Sea. A trough of low pressure has developed to the N. of Northern Honan.

Today's Forecast—Strong N.E. wind offshore; moderate N. and N.E. winds inshore; weather cloudy and cold.

Yesterday's Weather—Maximum: 66.4—Minimum: 50.4.

Minimum: 50.4—Maximum: 66.4. Rainfall: Nil. Total since Jan. 1: 20.1 mm., an annual average of 64.5 mm.

All Not Well On The Rice Front

Singapore, Feb. 19. Stating that events justified the warnings he had given earlier that better rice allocations to southeast Asia territories for the first six months of the year did not justify any relaxation, Lord Killearn, at the Southeast Asia Liaison Officers' Conference ending at Singapore today, added a special warning of rice exhaustion in the Netherlands East Indies, which he called "the greatest danger point on the whole rice front."

Lord Killearn said that the position of the unruly part of the town population of Batavia and the rural districts around Sourabaya was alarming. The death rate from under-nourishment was rapidly becoming apparent.

A programme of 17,000 tons monthly was required between January and April to maintain the total cereal ration of 4 1/2 ounces daily. So far, they were 13,000 tons short of the appropriations.

The new procurement scheme in Siam, put into operation on January 20, he said, had resulted in increasing the flow of rice arriving at Bangkok from January 27 onwards. Unless unforeseen conditions arose, it was confidently expected that the March programme would be achieved.

Siam Cautious
Representatives of the combined Siam Rice Commission expressed caution about the prospects of the new scheme, he added. They had accepted the January-March shipment programme in full, but did not feel justified in naming a figure for the April shipment. The Siam Rice Commission, however, was confident that the programme would be achieved.

BIG FREEZE-UP CONTINUES

Ice Endangers Shipping Off Norfolk

DAUNTLESS BRITAIN

Melbourne, Feb. 19. Stating "we can never repay the debt we owe to dauntless Britain, when in 1940 'she stood alone,'" Sir Howard Lloyd, Chairman of the Bank of Adelaide, writing in the Melbourne Herald, a special financial supplement, said: "A few years ago, would be for the Australian Government to make a straight loan to Britain of say £100,000,000, spread over a number of years, all of which he sent in the form of foodstuffs and raw materials."

Occupation Troops Kick

Tokyo, Feb. 20. It was unofficially reported here today that the British authorities at Kure in northern Japan have arrested a number of troops, believed to belong to the Dorsetshire Regiment, who refused to board the vessel Rajula, which was transferring them to Singapore.

The Rajula sailed yesterday with the first batch of United Kingdom troops transferred from Japan to Malaya. So far there is no confirmation of the incident. The troops are stated to have complained that conditions in the ship were not sanitary and staged a virtual sit-down strike until the military authorities intervened. The number detained was not known, it was stated.—Reuter.

PAPERS TORN UP

Paris, Feb. 20. A newspaper vendor selling Belgian papers outside a Paris underground station this morning was attacked by a group of press writers who tore them all up. Several news-starved Parisians protested and a brawl began which the police stopped.—Reuter.

Railways Blocked By Fresh Snow

London, Feb. 20. Snow powdered London anew today and more snow and gales were forecast as a "token strike" of 3,000 tugmen of coal barges on the Thames threatened to add to the city's woes. The unofficial strike, like that of truckers in January, was in protest against delay in the negotiations with masters on their demand for a regulated week in industry. The Union issued no statement and the men were expected to return to work tomorrow.

The Midlands' industrial plants planned partial reopening after the Monday switch-off of electricity promised yesterday by Prime Minister Attlee but most of the major industries, including the Austin Motor Company, Imperial Chemical Industries and General Electric, said today they would not be able to work a five-day week with the coal allotted them.

But as the cold passed its record-breaking nineteenth sunless day without promise of a let-up, stories of suffering came in from all parts of the country.

Seamen heroically hanging their little colliers through gales and heavy seas to get coal to fuel short Southeast England were reported to be suffering heavily from exposure and in some cases were hospitalized.

Naked Man In Snow

A baby was found abandoned on a doorstep in Southsea, wrapped only in a woman's shawl and suffering terribly from exposure.

Thirty-three-year-old Olive Mills was rescued from the sea near Brighton under mysterious circumstances and was taken to hospital suffering from shock and exposure. The police are carrying out investigation.

Police at Purley Way, Walsingham, chased a naked man through snowdrifts until he collapsed. He was taken to a hospital at Goxdon for observation.

For the first time since the great freeze of 1894-95 skaters on Friday will skate eight miles along the River Waveney from Beccles to Oulton Broad, Suffolk.

Ice Threat To Shipping

Icebergs from continental deltas have crossed the North Sea threatening fishing and coastal shipping off East Norfolk. Four "sawers" were trapped by a floe but escaped when 40 miles off Great Yarmouth.

Trains from Scotland were running into London late because of new snowfall and some lines were blocked.

Hundreds of sheep were feared lost in Yorkshire and lambing time, now here, came at the worst possible time. Many lambs were lost.

Coal continued to arrive at London in large quantities. Colliers brought 25,000 tons to the Thames Estuary yesterday. Great Western R.R. brought 25,000 tons in 78 trains.—United Press.

Ships Iced In

Oslo, Feb. 20. A convoy led by an ice-breaker may be sent to the relief of 40 ships stranded in the port of Kristiansand by persistent thick ice.

The ships were bound for Oslo and Gothenberg. Continuing low

MOUNTBATTEN FOR INDIA?

Bombay, Feb. 19. It is strongly rumored in knowledgeable London quarters that Admiral Lord Mountbatten, former Supreme Commander of SEAC, will succeed Lord Wavell as Viceroy of India. Official quarters decline to make any comment upon the suggestion.

The Admiralty announced in November that Lord Mountbatten had been appointed Rear-Admiral Commanding the First Cruiser Squadron, Mediterranean Fleet, the appointment to take effect in April this year. On January 6, he joined a senior officers technical course at Portsmouth.—Reuter.

Stampede In Ladies' Cloak Room

Capetown, Feb. 20. The Royal Family visited the historic naval base at Simonstown while Capetown officials investigated the peculiar disorder which broke out on Tuesday night in the cloak room of the ball attended by the King and Queen and the two Princesses.

The cloak room disturbance, which lasted for nearly two hours, broke out just after the Royal Family left the civil ball. As placed together from official sources, who declined use of their names, and from witnesses, this is what happened:

Cloakroom attendants left their posts to watch the Royal Family leave the hall. Several women became impatient and entered the room to get their own coats. There was a mixup and something like a stampede got under way. Faces were slapped and coats grabbed regardless of ownership before police and army men restored order.—Associated Press.

Coloured People's Ball

Capetown, Feb. 20. Four thousand of Capetown's 180,000 coloured population danced old time dances before the King and Queen and the Royal Princesses at the City Hall last night while at least 50,000 other coloured people watched outside.

It was the Royal Family's first real contact with coloured people of the Cape.

Before entering their box, the King and Queen shook hands with 14 couples representing various non-European organisations. The Royal party stayed 30 minutes.—Reuter.

Murder Story An Invention

A "complete fabrication" was the description applied by his son to reports of an assassination attempt on Mr. Liu Hou-wu, Control Yuan Commissioner for Kwangtung-Kwangsi, in Canton on Wednesday evening.

The reports, which were published in several Chinese newspapers in Hong Kong and caused a sensation in the Colony yesterday, alleged that five shots were fired into Mr. Liu's car while he was on the way home from his office.

It was stated that Mr. Liu's chauffeur was killed, following which the car crashed into an electric light standard, and that Mr. Liu himself was "seriously wounded."

Mr. Liu's relatives in Hong Kong declared they knew nothing of the reported attempt, and his son received a cable from his father later in the day stating the story was a "complete fabrication."

Attack On B.B.C.

SMUTTY JOKES & TOO MUCH BING

London, Feb. 20. Embattled BBC, already plagued by accusations of Socialistic bias and commercialism in song-plugging, today found itself the object of parliamentary wrath because "70 per cent of its jokes are smutty." It gives overdoes of Bing Crosby which is as dangerous to listeners as alcoholism and it insulted the women of Scotland.

This bill of particulars was hurled last night during a wild debate in the Commons on a supplementary broadcasting appropriation of nearly £1,000,000 which was approved only after the BBC had been dragged verbally over the coals.

Scottish Mrs. Jean Mann, Labour M.P. for Conbridge, led off with an attack on "Itma," a variety comedy programme which has more listeners than any BBC show.

Too Much Bing
"This programme has a Scots girl who was supposed to be falling off her head for that little twerp called Itma," Mrs. Mann said wrathfully. "In my generation no Scotswoman would have looked at him twice."

Some listeners, he said, have an inordinate fondness for Bing but a "wireless addict does more injury to his neighbours with his radio set always on than a drink addict does except when he is in delirium tremens."

Inquiry Demanded
Wink Commander Geoffrey Cooper, Socialist for Middleborough, who originally raised the question of staff bribery in BBC song-plugging and brought about an official inquiry now under way, was ruled out of order when he tried to ask that the investigations be broadened.

This matter goes far beyond the allegations of gifts in connection with dance music broadcasts," he said. "I intend to press for a full-scale investigation into the BBC by an independent firm of business consultants and also the formation of a National Broadcasting Council representing broadcast owners of all types.—United Press."

what I wanted. I found it rather difficult to get employment as I had not been in the country for about 10 years." The magistrate intervened to say that Holland would be remanded until March 5 and bail would be granted if he could produce two sureties each of £500.—Reuter.

Ex-Shanghai Man On Grave Charge
London, Feb. 19. John Joseph Holland, 39-year-old seaman, who was arrested on an oil tanker at Hull, was charged in London today with entering the service of a German-controlled radio station in Shanghai in February, 1942, and entering the service of the Japanese broadcasting system in Tokyo in the same year.

A detective said that when shown a number of documents received from Australia, Holland replied: "These look like some of my broadcasts."

Holland told the magistrate: "I have been in custody practically since the end of the war. In February last year, I was taken by the Australian military forces to an island in the Celebes, where I was placed under open arrest. I had the opportunity for making an escape if I wished. I have a letter from the captain in charge which states that I am given complete freedom on the island and made no attempt to avoid arrest or to escape."

In June last, Holland declared, he was released by the Commonwealth authorities and offered a passage to Sydney, which he accepted. On arrival, he reported to the Security Police headquarters. No restriction was placed on his movements.

"I went to Western Australia, where I understood I was completely at liberty to do

BANK REFUSES INSPECTION

Canton, Feb. 20. The Central Bank of China here yesterday refused to submit its accounts for an inspection by the Kwangtung-Kwangsi Supervisory Office, which in conjunction with the Local Court has been carrying out an investigation to ascertain the amount of gold in Government and Provincial banks in Canton.

The Supervisory Office, besides expressing indignation, declared that the Central Bank will be severely dealt with.—Central News.

Sino-British Air Talks

Nanking, Feb. 20. Members of the British Air Mission to China had a long meeting with the Chinese Government aviation authorities today. It was reliably learned, but the nature of their discussions was not disclosed.

However, it is expected that draft proposals submitted by both parties will be announced some time in April.

The British Mission, which arrived in Nanking about ten days ago, is negotiating a commercial air service between British China and the United States.

Overseas Chinese Exempt From Order

Nanking, Feb. 18. Overseas Chinese will be exempted from the Government's order requiring the transfer of foreign exchange deposited abroad to Chinese banks, the Minister of Information, Mr. Peng Hsueh-pei, announced at a press conference today, in commenting on the measures recently promulgated for the stabilisation of China's economy.

This exemption will affect approximately 3,500,000 Chinese nationals living abroad. The measures governing foreign exchange specified that deposits in foreign countries must be transferred to Chinese banks or converted into National currency at the official rate of exchange.

Overseas Chinese residing abroad are exempted from this order, Mr. Peng stated, adding that detailed measures are being drawn up regarding this matter.

Whether the Chinese Government will request the United States or other foreign governments to freeze deposits in their countries belonging to Chinese citizens residing in China is also under consideration, he stated.

Colossal Sum
According to press reports from United States Treasury sources, Chinese deposits in the United States are estimated at \$1,000,000,000. At the same time, the United States has a large number of Chinese citizens residing in the United States.

*** HENNESSY COGNAC BRANDY ***



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THE RANCHI INFLUX

A few more embarrassments to Government akin to the discovery that it has to cater for 138 new arrivals in the Ranchi when only 38 were expected, and it is possible that a more positive policy on housing might be forthcoming. Treated as numbers, rather than as a group of human beings, and it seems somewhat fantastic that a difference of 100 persons to a Colony the size of Hong Kong should drag from Government an official admission of "grave doubts as to whether accommodation is likely to be found for the new arrivals." Somehow or other, of course, all will be absorbed, even if it is, as Government suggests, "on a very austere basis." That, however, is beside the point; or worse, Government has an altogether too coexistent habit of assuming that accommodation of any kind once found, however austere, and the matter is settled, the difficulty overcome. The discomfiture visited on Government by the shock provided in the revised list of impending Ranchi arrivals can be of wider value, if it impresses upon those officials who are concerned with housing, directly or indirectly, that they have had frequent enough reminders of the need for energy and initiative in tackling the overall problem. Thus far, the record has been a dismal one. It is, indeed, we imagine, more than coincidence that concerning all its various activities, those affecting housing are also those about which Government preserves the closest silence. Futility, vacillation, or plain indifference, are things which even the most successful P.R.O. must have difficulty in translating into an acceptable picture. Unfortunately, the problem remains in spite of official persistency in blinking its eyes to it, and in spite of the survival of occasional crises such as that threatened by the Ranchi influx. In the past, these have been overcome, more often than not, by pressure on the Services resulting in the release of requisitioned property. And in this, of course, whether the viewpoint is popular or not, is to be found the only key to solution of the immediate difficulties. Quite frankly, the Services are still in occupation of civilian residential property on a scale justifying criticism if only on the ground that, since the re-occupation of Hong Kong, they have had eighteen months in which (starting from the proposition that they could not reasonably expect indefinitely to retain possession of private property commandeered under emergency conditions) to build for themselves. Sooner or later, it is unavoidable, and it is pertinent to enquire, why not sooner? The homeless civilian would, undoubtedly, be a trifle more patient on this score, were he satisfied that in all cases the best use was being made of the requisitioned property and that no element of dog-in-the-manager existed to arouse hostility. In this connection, particularly in view of its Ranchi anxieties, Government might find it worth while to examine once again the Service tenure of properties in Argyle Street, the Kadoorie Estate and elsewhere in that region, generally of Kowloon. Without investigation, it is not for us to repeat the allegations that have been and are being made, but there has been a circumstantial consistency about them which would seem to warrant official inquiry with a view to their early release. Sometimes some of us are liable to forget that the British Military Administration (and military law) terminated in Hong Kong ten months ago. The acuteness of the housing shortage, intensifying progressively in accordance with easy predictions, suggests that the time has come to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's."

Vienna, Feb. 20. The United States Government has returned to Austria \$4,749,507 in gold, silver and bank notes, which the National Bank of Austria, by the German and recovered in the American zone of Austria, the U.S. Army—Associated Press.

London, Feb. 19. Britain today faces a crisis as grim as any in her history; unless production and exports are increased in spite of the severe manpower shortage, there may be a serious national food shortage, inflation and inevitable cuts in the already austere living standards of this country. There is no doubt that the White Paper on the economic position of Britain, which lays these facts before the British public in terms of simple arithmetic, is one of the gravest documents ever issued by a British Government.

It can be summed up in three words: "Export or Die." Britain, explains the White Paper, needs to increase its exports to 75 percent above the 1938 level—in spite of the manpower shortage, caused largely by the fact that millions of young men are still in the Armed Forces, material shortages, and shortages of goods for home consumption.

The most disturbing factor of the White Paper is that, according to all mathematical and economic rules, there seems to be no way how this can be done. If Britain achieves her export aim, it will be an economic miracle. Sir Stafford Cripps, the President of the Board of Trade, who is in charge of the export drive, and is also responsible for deciding what goods may be released for the home market, summed up the situation recently when he said: "We have more jobs to do and we want to do them with our limited resources."

Cripps suggested three ways in which this country can get over its economic adversity: 1. The widespread re-introduction of part-time labour, especially for women. 2. New short cuts in production methods. 3. An end by employers and employees of all beliefs that stand in the way of a speedup in the work we can work less and earn more when there is not the production to give us that higher standard," said Cripps, "then we are heading straight for disaster."

Thus the economic stability of this country will depend on whether the Labour Government can persuade the British workers to work harder and to work longer hours.

Athens, Feb. 19. The Governments of Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia announced today that newspapermen to be admitted to those countries with the United Nations Investigating Commission will be carefully selected by the Governments and will not be admitted freely as proposed by the Security Council. The three countries said the question of visas for the 11 newspapermen assigned to the commission was premature, since it had not yet been decided whether the commission would visit the countries.

The commission press officer, Mr. Stanley Ryan of Canada, last week formally requested visas for the representatives of United Press, Associated Press, International News Service, Reuters, Tass, Agence France Press, China's Central News and correspondents from Greece and other countries involved in the Balkan investigation—United Press.

BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC ADVERSITY: A SURVEY

At the moment, he gets very little return for his work in a country in the world, and a large percentage of the worker's income is deducted under the "Pay As You Earn" income tax scheme—that is the scheme's official name—before he gets his wages. Thus a typical married worker, who earns £48.00 a week, has 10 shillings deducted for income tax before he receives his wage packet. In addition, there are compulsory deductions for health and unemployment insurance. A single worker earning £5 a week has 10 shillings deducted for income tax and insurance contributions.

If a worker works overtime, his added earnings often bring him into a higher income tax bracket, and his extra earnings are deducted, so that his effort is hardly worth while.

But when a worker has paid his income tax, his taxation is only just beginning. There is the enormous purchase tax on all kinds of goods. Half a pint of cheap and watery beer costs 7½ pence. Twenty cigarettes—pre-war price 1 shilling—now costs 2/4. A cheap cinema seat costs 1/6, but a seat in the front row costs 2/6. A cheap cinema seat costs 1/6, but a seat in the front row costs 2/6.

Just Beginning. The British worker's war record was admirable. There were hardly any industrial disputes during the war, workers cheerfully put up with often appalling working conditions, worked as much as 72 hours a week and performed industrial miracles.

Today, the British worker instinctively wants to "ease up." He is, like most Britons, extremely "war-weary" and feels he has earned better conditions and shorter hours.

Cynical. What is more, the British worker is rather cynical. He remembers only too well the between-the-wars years of unemployment and frustration and of exploitation by employers, with the constant threat of the unemployed men's dole queue in the background.

There are many who feel that now and just now, when every worker is vitally needed, is the time to fight for a general improvement of working conditions. This is the factor behind most of the recent strikes for more pay and shorter working week. It is the reason why, in spite of strenuous Government opposition, the Trade Union Congress last autumn demanded the general introduction of the 40-hour week.

It is true that many workers realise the seriousness of the situation. They know what an economic breakdown would mean for them. They also want to support the Labour Government. This is the factor behind most of the recent strikes for more pay and shorter working week. It is the reason why, in spite of strenuous Government opposition, the Trade Union Congress last autumn demanded the general introduction of the 40-hour week.

But even among these politically and economically conscious workers, there is a strong "human nature factor"—the deeply ingrained idea of leaving things to the other man.

More Inducements. The Government realises that the only way to get workers to work harder and for longer hours is to offer them inducements more tangible than half-understood economic terminology and stringently worded appeals to political loyalty.

It is expected that such inducements will be offered in the second White Paper on the economic position of Britain, which is to be published later this week. Hugh Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is, according to well-informed political circles, considering to provide incentive for the workers in his next budget, due early in April. This may mean a reduction in taxation, and possibly tax-free overtime earnings.

Sir Stafford Cripps may find it necessary to release more goods for the home market to give workers incentive to earn more by producing more for export. His quandary is that these goods will have to be produced first.

It is a vicious circle, but Britain's national solvency will depend on the solution of the problem. —United Press.

France's new Government by next present indications now is directing its foreign policy toward a new version of the western bloc, this time economic, if not political.

If so, this means France has decided to cast her lot with the United States and Britain in the forthcoming Foreign Ministers' meeting in Moscow on issues concerning Germany and Austria.

Such a policy spurred by Leon Blum's recent journey to London, would embody advice given at least a year ago by General de Gaulle when the first President of the Provisional Government urged his successors to join with Britain as a bulwark against Communism.

Federal Germany. Three western members of the Big Four already are in accord on a federalised Germany, opposed by the Soviets, and of principle of close economic co-operation among the nations of western Europe.

The French propose to complement this internationalisation of Ruhr resources by shifting the European industrial centre of gravity westward. New steel mills would be established on French, Belgian and Luxembourg soil near sources of ore, Ruhr

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"I always charge everything I buy here! I just don't like to be alone on the street with all that money!"

French Policy Swinging To The Western Powers

By JOSEPH E. DYNAN

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"OPERATION SWITCH-ON"

Electricity Supply Restored To The Industrial Heart Of England No Relaxation On Use Of Domestic Current

London, Feb. 19.

The Government tonight issued an order for "Operation Switch-On," which will on Monday restore electricity supply to the industrial heart of England, where vital export plants have been at a standstill for nearly two weeks. The area in which the use of electricity for industry will be permitted is centred on Birmingham and stretches to Crewe, Gloucester and Peterborough.

The Prime Minister, making this announcement in the House of Commons today, declared that the Government would not consider the situation safe in any area until two weeks' stocks were built up.

Mr. Attlee also stated that the Government was initiating talks through the Minister of Labour between employers and trade unions for staggering hours of work in the restored area, so as to spread over the industrial load.

Perfectly Mutual Approach

London, Feb. 19.

During the past few days, there has been unofficial contact between the British Ambassador in Paris and the new Spanish Republican Administration, Mr. Bevin, Foreign Secretary, stated in a parliamentary answer today.

Mr. Bevin said that the Spanish Government was one of the principal factors which must be taken into account in finding a democratic solution in Spain and that he was aware that the Government was sure that it would welcome its help and advice.

Mr. Bevin replied: "It is so recently formed that I must wait and see whether it has stability. When Mr. E. Degue, Bourne, Conservative, asked what steps the British Government was going to take next, Mr. Bevin replied: 'To carry on the process of conversation.'"

Poland

Mr. Bevin said today that he did not think any useful purpose would be served by withdrawing Britain's recognition of the Polish Government which would sever her contact with Poland. When Sir Thomas Moore, Conservative, who had raised the matter in the House of Commons, asked what steps if any the British Government was going to take next, Mr. Bevin replied: "To carry on the process of conversation."—Reuter.

The areas in which the use of electricity for industry is still banned are the south-east, including London, and the north-west. Mr. Attlee said that Parliament would be notified when it was considered safe to re-start industry in those areas also. "We do not want rashness, but we do not want timidity," Mr. Attlee said.

The Fuel Ministry announced tonight that yesterday Britain's electricity undertakings had enough coal in stock to keep going for 13.5 days over the country as a whole, but London's power stations had only 11.5 days' stocks, based on restricted consumption estimates.

The Government's restoration of power to the Midlands' industries does not imply any relaxation of restrictions on the domestic use of electricity, which still stand at the five-hour ban daily. The Ministry of Fuel spokesman, Sir Guy Nott-Bower, warned at a press conference that the "gas position is nothing like satisfactory, but there is no question just now of gas restrictions."

The Ministry of Fuel warned the nation that an adequate margin of safety had not yet been reached and urged citizens to observe regulations and exercise the utmost economy in the use of electricity and gas. The Prime Minister rejected the suggestion by a Conservative Member of Parliament that he should make a special appeal to workers and employers to suspend all restrictive practices and work longer hours for six months to make up for lost production. Mr. Attlee told Parliament that on full resumption of work, he was confident that employers and workers could be relied on to observe regulations and to take any steps necessary to make up for lost production.

Miners are tonight being urged to make a decision about Sunday work this week-end. In the South Wales anthracite field the Abercrombie colliery resumed production would be throughout Sunday. Coal production last week in the West Midlands was 13,000 tons up on the corresponding week of last year.

Returning To Work

The total number out of work through power cuts climbed yesterday to 2,114,000, it was reported.

Albania's Reply To Britain

Lake Success, Feb. 20.

Albania flatly disclaimed any responsibility for laying mines in the Corfu Channel as charged by Britain and in turn accused British ships of violating her territorial waters.

Albanian representative Hysni Kapo, appearing before the United Nations Security Council, said: "I deny flatly and categorically the charges that have been made." Charging the British with "flagrant violations" of Albanian waters, he said, the Royal Navy warships entered the channel off the Albanian coast to provoke and intimidate his country.

Kapo talked for nearly two hours in opposing the complaint under which Britain seeks an apology and compensation for loss of life and property.

Two destroyers struck mines in the channel last October 22 and 44 sailors were killed.

British delegate Gramscio announced the defence of Albania against the charges of the Albanians and engaged in a sharp verbal exchange with Sir Alexander Cadogan, Britain's delegate.

The Council adjourned in the midst of the dispute and will resume discussion of the case tomorrow.

Empire Air Defence "In A Bad Case"

London, Feb. 19.

Geographically, Britain's Empire air defence is "in a bad case" on 1939 evaluation, Air Marshal Sir Philip Joubert, wartime chief of R.A.F. Coastal Command, told the Royal Empire Society in London today.

"The granting of independence to India and Burma, the difficulties in Egypt and Palestine, and the growth of nationalism in Ceylon, all seem to mitigate against an orderly plan of Empire defence," he declared.

"Bases which were once securely in our hands and in territories friendly to us are no longer under our control. Treaties of mutual assistance may emerge in time, but they are not yet signed, and until then we can do little but wait for the outcome of political developments which we have encouraged in the past."

Britain, he added, fortunately still administered territories such as West and East Africa, Ceylon at present, and Malaya, which constituted "major strong points" where air bases and ground organisation could be maintained.

"The main lesson to be learned from the last war," he continued, "is that we have got to be very much better prepared than we were in 1939. Other parts of the Empire must now be called in to help in re-establishing the framework of our defence, which at present is somewhat out of alignment. Fortunately, the greatly improved performance of modern aircraft makes this possible."

In the whole picture of Empire defence, there was nothing more sinister, he said, than the prospect facing Britain if the problem of successfully attacking high-speed constantly-submerged submarines was not solved before the country was once more engaged in battle with an enemy possessing such weapons.

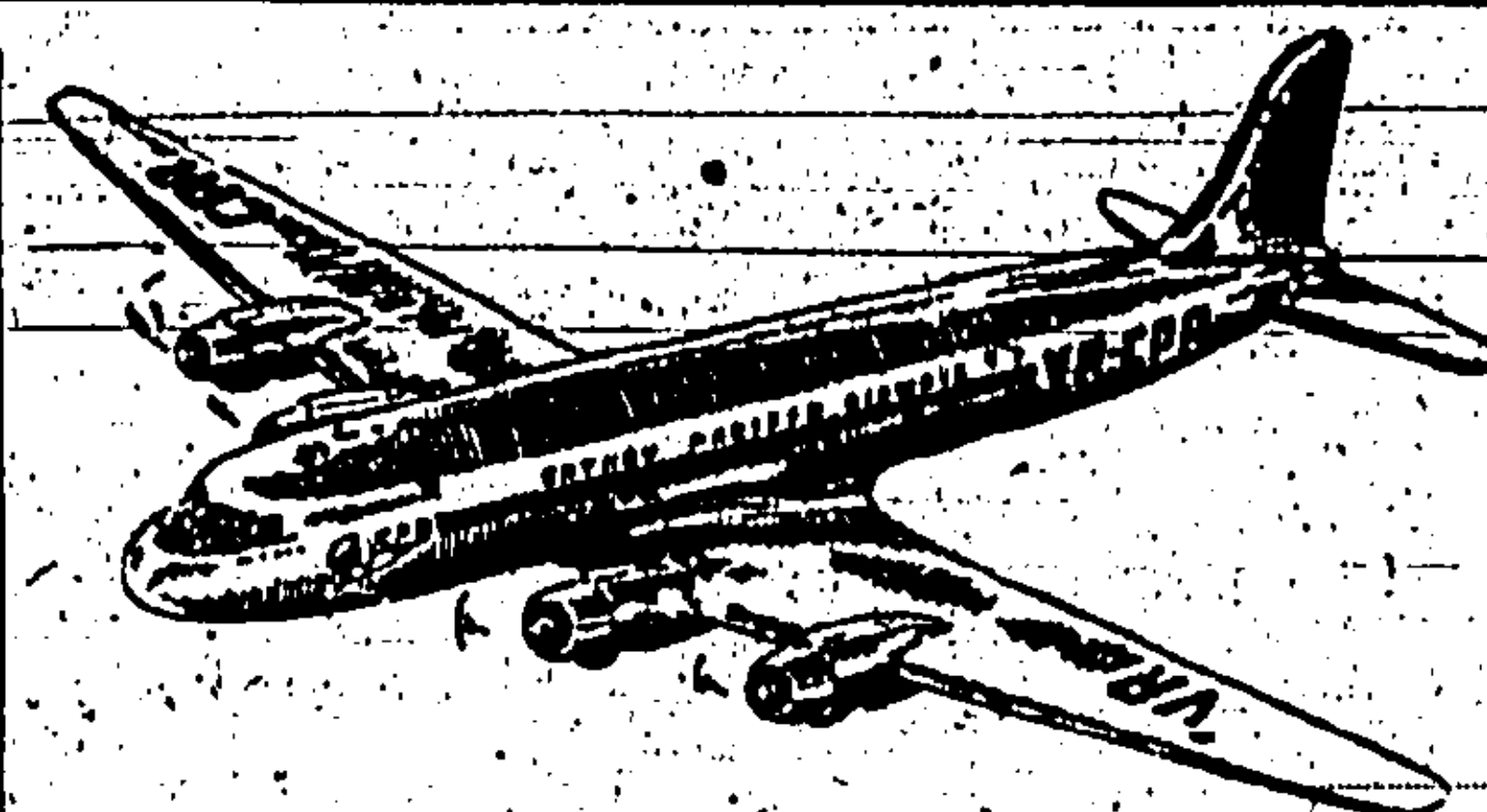
"Assuming that the future bomber will have a speed approaching that of sound, the business of intercepting and shooting it down now presents problems nearly insoluble by present methods," Air Marshal Joubert said. "The interceptor fighter of the future may well be a relatively short-range guided missile, rather than an aircraft."

Zeppelin Plotted

He revealed that in the summer of 1939—shortly before the war—Germany's "Graf Zeppelin" was plotted by the British coastal radar stations when it was flying down the North Sea.

"Her course and the various turns she made coinciding with the positions of these stations, clearly indicated that she in her turn was plotting them, and endeavouring to find their purpose," he said.

Also speaking at the Royal Empire Society was Air Commander Ewart, Air Officer Commanding Royal Australian Air Force in London, who said that Britain must think in terms of dispersing resources as far as possible, and perhaps spreading the population throughout the parts of the Empire.



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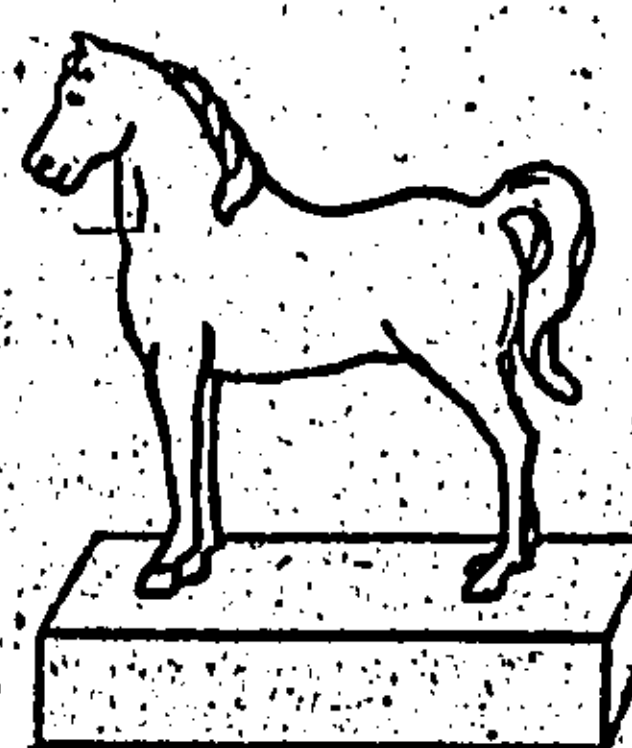


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